BAT MAN
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
R.I.P.
HANNIGAN + GIORDANO
WHERE STALKS THE SCARECROW!
THE NEW
THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.

HIS HEART HAMMERING, JASON TODD RACES OVER A LANDSCAPE OF DEATH.
MY PARENTS!
THEY SAID IT WAS ABOUT MY PARENTS!
KRRAAAAKK
BUT THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD-- MURDERED BY KILLER CROC AT THE ZOO!
HOW CAN THEY BE IN TROUBLE HERE?!
BUT WHO'D DO SUCH A HORRIBLE THING, COMMISH?
A MONSTER, SGT. BULLOCK--A HIDEOUS MONSTER.
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?! WHAT'S HAPPENED--?!
IT'S THE GON--! STOP HIM--HE MUSTN'T SEE!
OH NO... THE GRAVES... THEY'RE EMPTY...
MY MOTHER AND FATHER... THEY'RE REALLY GONE NOW... MORE THAN JUST DEAD...
THEY'VE LEFT ME FOREVER!
THEN HE LOOKS UP TO THE TOMBSTONES ABOVE THE GAPING GRAVES, AND THE LURID FLARE OF LIGHTNING REVEALS--
AK K
KRR,AR
AND...AND... OH MY GOD.

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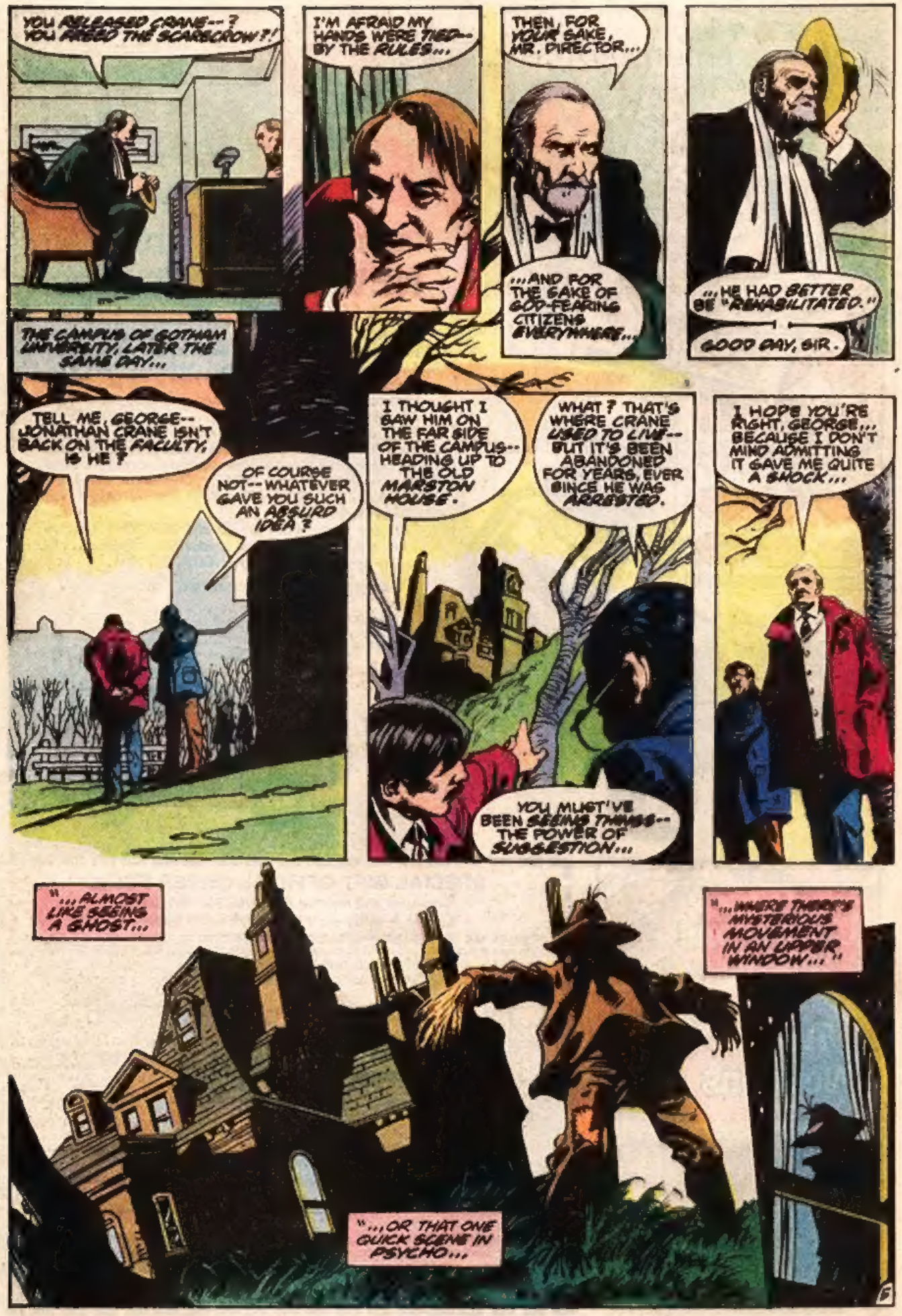
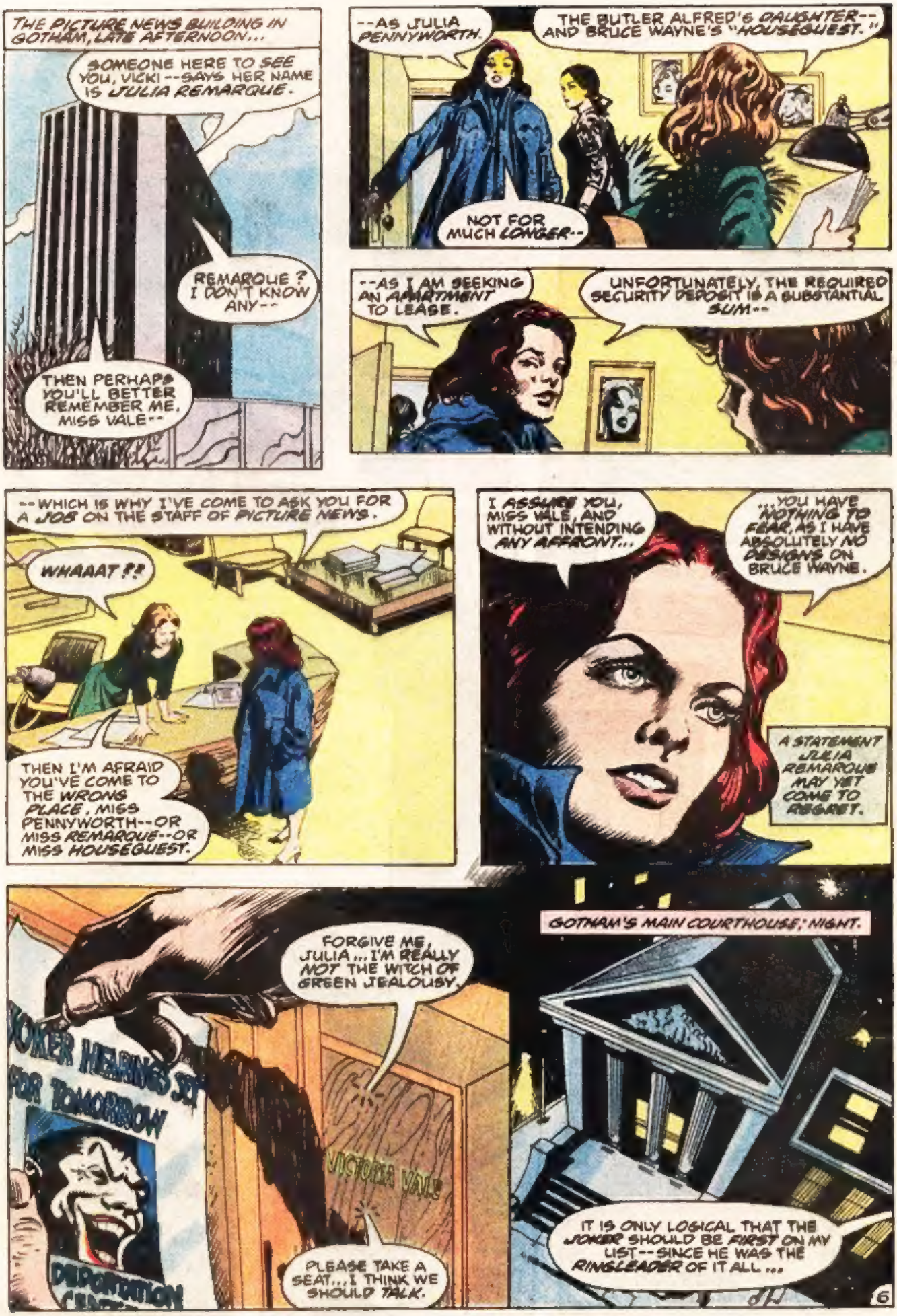
BAT MAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
NOOOOOO!!
BRUCE!!
NOT YOU TOO, BRUCE!!
YOU CAN'T BE DEAD TOO!!
THE FREQUENCY OF FEAR
JOSEPH TO
BOR
DIED
RINA TODD
BORN 191
DOUG MOENCH WRITER
GENE COLAN & ALFREDO ALCALA ARTISTS
ALBERT DE GUZMAN LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
LEN WEIN EDITOR

BRUCE, YOU SAY? GOOD LORD! BATMAN AND BRUCE WAYNE ARE ONE AND THE SAME?
DIN'T I TELL YA, COMMISH?
IF THE TWO STIFFS WERE THE FLYIN' TODDS FROM THE CIRCUS, AN' IF THAT NEW KID STAYIN' WITH WAYNE IS JASON TODD, THEN--
SHUT UP, YOU FOOLS! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?! MY PARENTS ARE GONE AND BRUCE IS DEAD!
I'M ALONE NOW-- ALL ALONE! THERE'S NOTHING AND NO ONE FOR ME!
I MIGHT AS WELL BE--
GET BACK, BULLOCK! THE RAIN IS DRIVING THE CROCODILES OUT OF THE GRAVES!
THEY'RE ARMED AND DANGEROUS -- BUT IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF WE JUST LET THEM TAKE THE BOY!
WHAT THE--?!
NOOOOOO
WHAT IS IT, JASON?
3

YOU WERE SCREAMING IN YOUR SLEEP, LAD. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
B-BRUCE... ALFRED...
Y-YEAH... I... I'M FINE... J-JUST A NIGHTMARE...
BUT UNTIL YOU KNOW IT'S ONLY A NIGHTMARE--
--IT'D LIKE TO KILL YA.
THE NEXT MORNING:
AH, COME IN, DR. ANDREWS-- I TRUST YOUR JOURNEY FROM GOTHAM WAS PLEASANT?
A CHANCE TO READ ON THE TRAIN.
OF COURSE--AND IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE SUCH A DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE VISIT OUR FACILITY HERE.
ARKHAM ASYLVM FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE
NOW--HOW MAY I HELP YOU, DR. ANDREWS?
AS I MENTIONED IN MY LETTER, I'M WRITING A TEXT ANALYZING THE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED FEAR ON THE HUMAN PSYCHE.
AS PART OF MY RESEARCH, I SHOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS-- JONATHAN CRANE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INFAMOUS SCARECROW.
FEAR, OF COURSE, IS HIS SPECIALTY.
I REALIZE SUCH AN INTERVIEW MAY NOT BE PRODUCTIVE--
--IN AS MUCH AS CRANE HIMSELF IS NOW SO TERROR-STRICKEN AS TO BE VIRTUALLY MUTE, BUT--
I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, DR. ANDREWS, BUT JONATHAN CRANE IS NOW ABLE TO THINK AND SPEAK QUITE CLEARLY...
OH? BUT THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS-- NOW I NEED NOT BE CONFINED TO MERE OBSERVATION.
WHY WOULD THAT DISAPPOINT ME?
BECAUSE... UNDER THE LAW... WHEN A PATIENT HAS BEEN REHABILITATED... HE MUST BE RELEASED.
WHAAAT?!
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PATH FOLLOWING


YOU RELEASED CRANE--? YOU FREED THE SCARECROW?!
I'M AFRAID MY HANDS WERE TIED-- BY THE RULES...
THEN, FOR YOUR SAKE, MR. DIRECTOR...
...AND FOR THE SAKE OF GOD-FEARING CITIZENS EVERYWHERE...
...HE HAD BETTER BE "REHABILITATED."
GOOD DAY, SIR.
THE CAMPUS OF GOTHAM UNIVERSITY. LATER THE SAME DAY...
TELL ME, GEORGE-- JONATHAN CRANE ISN'T BACK ON THE FACULTY, IS HE?
OF COURSE NOT-- WHATEVER GAVE YOU SUCH AN ABSURD IDEA?
I THOUGHT I SAW HIM ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CAMPUS-- HEADING UP TO THE OLD MARSTON HOUSE.
WHAT? THAT'S WHERE CRANE USED TO LIVE-- BUT IT'S BEEN ABANDONED FOR YEARS, EVER SINCE HE WAS ARRESTED.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN SEEING THINGS-- THE POWER OF SUGGESTION...
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, GEORGE... BECAUSE I DON'T MIND ADMITTING IT GAVE ME QUITE A SHOCK...
"...ALMOST LIKE SEEING A GHOST...
"...OR THAT ONE QUICK SCENE IN PSYCHO...
"...WHERE THERE'S MYSTERIOUS MOVEMENT IN AN UPPER WINDOW..."
6


THE PICTURE NEWS BUILDING IN GOTHAM, LATE AFTERNOON...
SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU, VICKI--SAYS HER NAME IS JULIA REMARQUE.
REMARQUE? I DON'T KNOW ANY--
THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL BETTER REMEMBER ME, MISS VALE--
--AS JULIA PENNYWORTH.
THE BUTLER ALFRED'S DAUGHTER--AND BRUCE WAYNE'S "HOUSEGUEST."
NOT FOR MUCH LONGER--
--AS I AM SEEKING AN APARTMENT TO LEASE.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE REQUIRED SECURITY DEPOSIT IS A SUBSTANTIAL SUM--
--WHICH IS WHY I'VE COME TO ASK YOU FOR A JOB ON THE STAFF OF PICTURE NEWS.
WHAAAT?!
THEN I'M AFRAID YOU'VE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE, MISS PENNYWORTH--OR MISS REMARQUE--OR MISS HOUSEGUEST.
I ASSURE YOU, MISS VALE, AND WITHOUT INTENDING ANY AFFRONT...
...YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, AS I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO DESIGNS ON BRUCE WAYNE.
A STATEMENT JULIA REMARQUE MAY YET COME TO REGRET.
JOKER HEARINGS SET FOR TOMORROW
DEPOSITION
FORGIVE ME, JULIA... I'M REALLY NOT THE WITCH OF GREEN JEALOUSY.
VICTORIA VALE
PLEASE TAKE A SEAT... I THINK WE SHOULD TALK.
GOTHAM'S MAIN COURTHOUSE; NIGHT.
IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT THE JOKER SHOULD BE FIRST ON MY LIST--SINCE HE WAS THE RINGLEADER OF IT ALL...
6

...AS WELL AS THE MASTER PLANNER OF MY INVIDIOUS HUMILIATION.
WHAT THEY DID TO ME TRANSCENDS MERE CRUELTY.
THEY VIRTUALLY IGNORED ME.
THE BATMAN'S GREATEST FOES ALL UNITING TO PLOT HIS DEATH--AND DRAGGING ME AROUND AS IF I WERE A STITCHED-UP BAG OF STRAW...
...ALL WHILE MY MIND WAS SO INCAPACITATED BY FEAR THAT I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A PITIFUL TRAVESTY OF THE MAN I REALLY AM.*
"WITHOUT MY AID, THEY WERE DOOMED TO FAILURE--EVERY LAST ONE OF THE WRETCHED FOOLS."
* SEE DETECTIVE #526. --LEN.
BUT NOW, THANKS TO THE DOCTORS AT ARKHAM, I'M RECOVERED--
--ABLE TO THINK CLEARLY ONCE AGAIN...TO SCHEME BRILLIANTLY...
...AND FOR MY REVENGE, I SHALL MAKE A MOCKERY OF THOSE WHO MISTREATED ME.
AND IT IS INDEED FITTING THAT THE JOKER SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO FALL.
HOLD IT.
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS IN THE COURTHOUSE?
MY BUSINESS, FOOL...
7

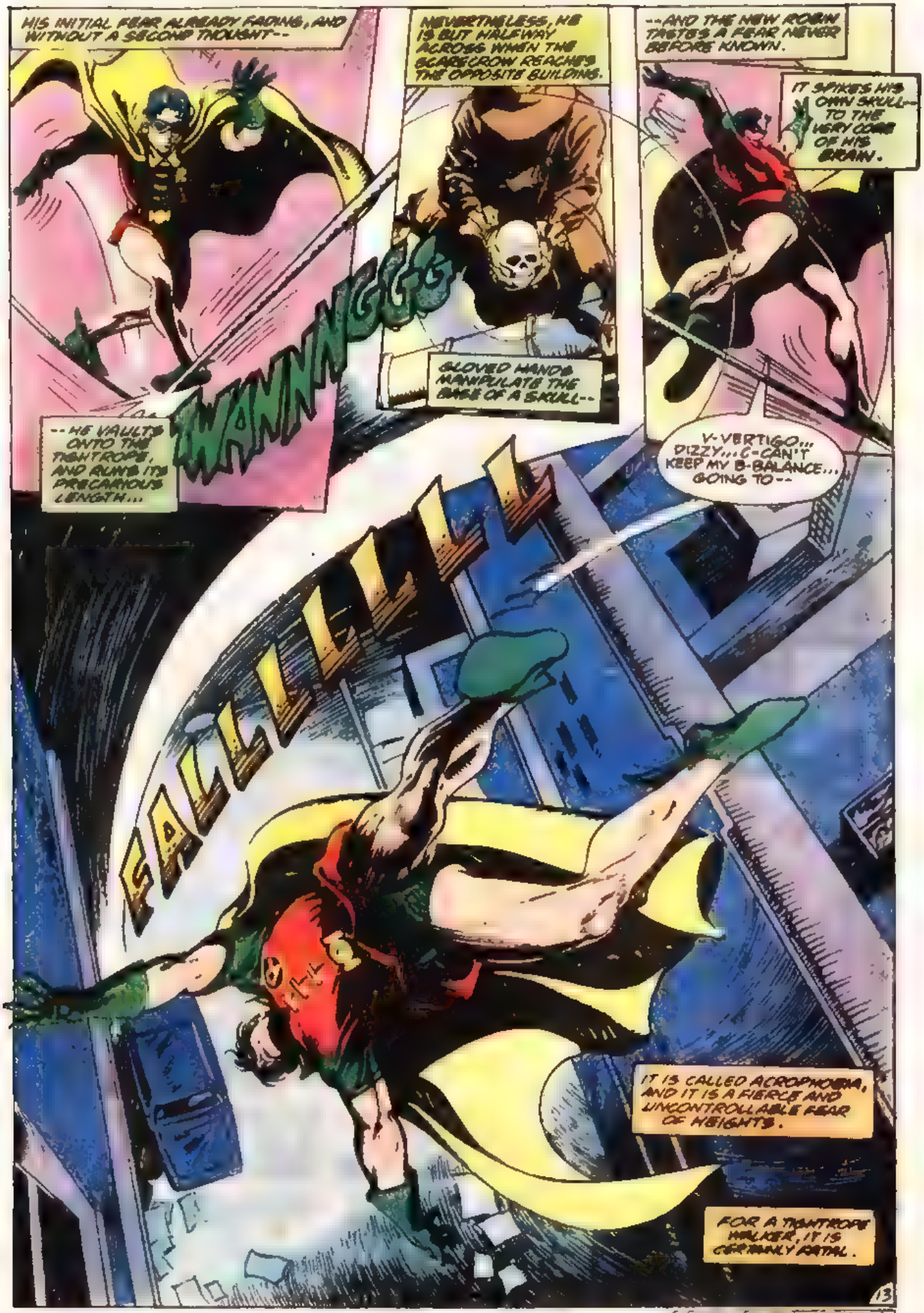
...IS THIS.
MY BUSINESS... IS THE FUN OF FEAR.
HUMMMMM
OH MY GOD, NO--!
Y-YOUR FACE... CHANGING... FALLING AWAY IN TATTERS...
IT... IT'S HIDEOUS... HORRIBLE...!
ARGH-H!
S-STAY BACK... P-PLEASE... DON'T COME ANY C-CLOSER... S-STAY AWAY FROM ME...!
DREAM ON, COP.

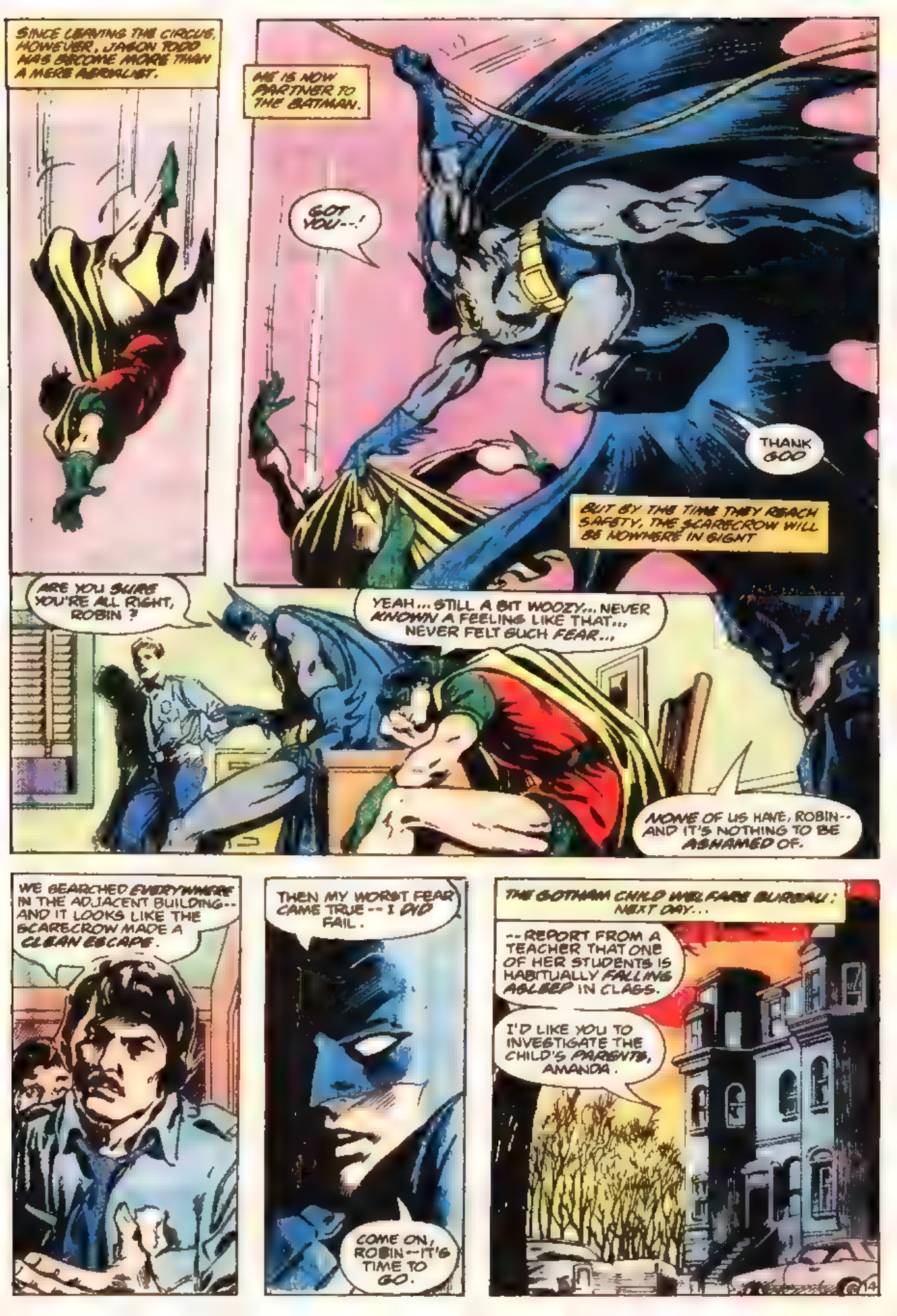
...NOT WHEN I CAN MOVE THROUGH LEGIONS ON THE STRENGTH OF TERROR ALONE.
WHERE'S THE LOCK-UP?
WH-WHAT THE--?
THAT'S THE SCARECROW, ISN'T IT?
N-NO... PLEASE... D-DON'T TOUCH ME...
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME!
THERE'S HARDLY NEED FOR THAT, COR...
WHERE'S THE LOCK-UP I SAID!
WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON OUT--
IDIOTS! TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW--
--AND YOU WILL BE SPARED THE FEAR!
YAAHHHH
NO! SPIDERS-- EVERYWHERE!!
HUMMM
9

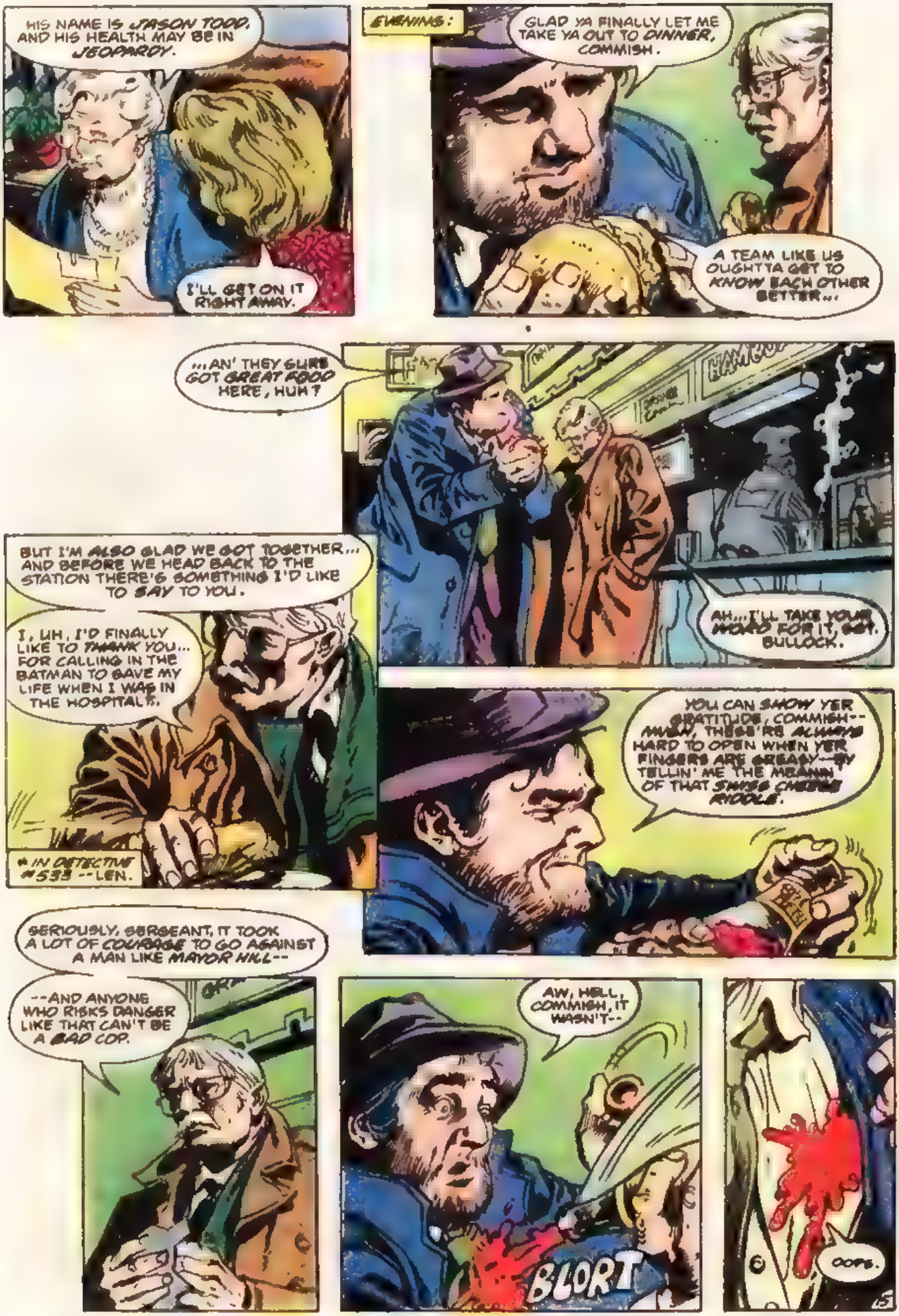
SPIDERS ALL OVER ME -- HAIRY BODIES DRIPPING FILTH --
--TRYING TO CRAWL DOWN MY NECK -- INTO MY EARS!
AND BATS -- NOW THERE'S BATS TOO, SWOOPING FOR MY HAIR!
TELL ME -- AND I WILL DELIVER YOU FROM HORROR!
OBEY ME AND I WILL MAKE THE FEAR-ICONS DISAPPEAR! I WILL MAKE THE VISIONS EVAPORATE!
REFUSE -- AND I WILL DRIVE YOU STARK RAVING MAD!
SO T-TERRIFIED... CAN BARELY MOVE...
G-GOTTA... CALL FOR... HELP...
THE LOCK-UP! WHERE!
I-IN TH-THERE...
OPEN IT! LEAD ME TO THE CELLS--
-- OR I'LL FILL YOUR MIND WITH SO MUCH SCREAMING DARKNESS THAT YOU'LL PUT YOUR OWN GUN TO YOUR HEAD JUST TO END IT!
A-ANYTHING -- JUST DON'T S-SCARE ME ANYMORE!
BUT --
THE JOKER -- HIS HEARING BEGINS TOMORROW -- BUT HE'S NOT HERE?
H-HIS LAUGHTER... IT WAS DRIVING THE OTHER PRISONERS CRAZY...
W-WE HAD TO MOVE HIM OFF BY HIMSELF...
"I... I'LL TAKE YOU THERE -- TO THE S-SOLITARY CELL!"
HA HA HA HA
LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN, JOKER...
10
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

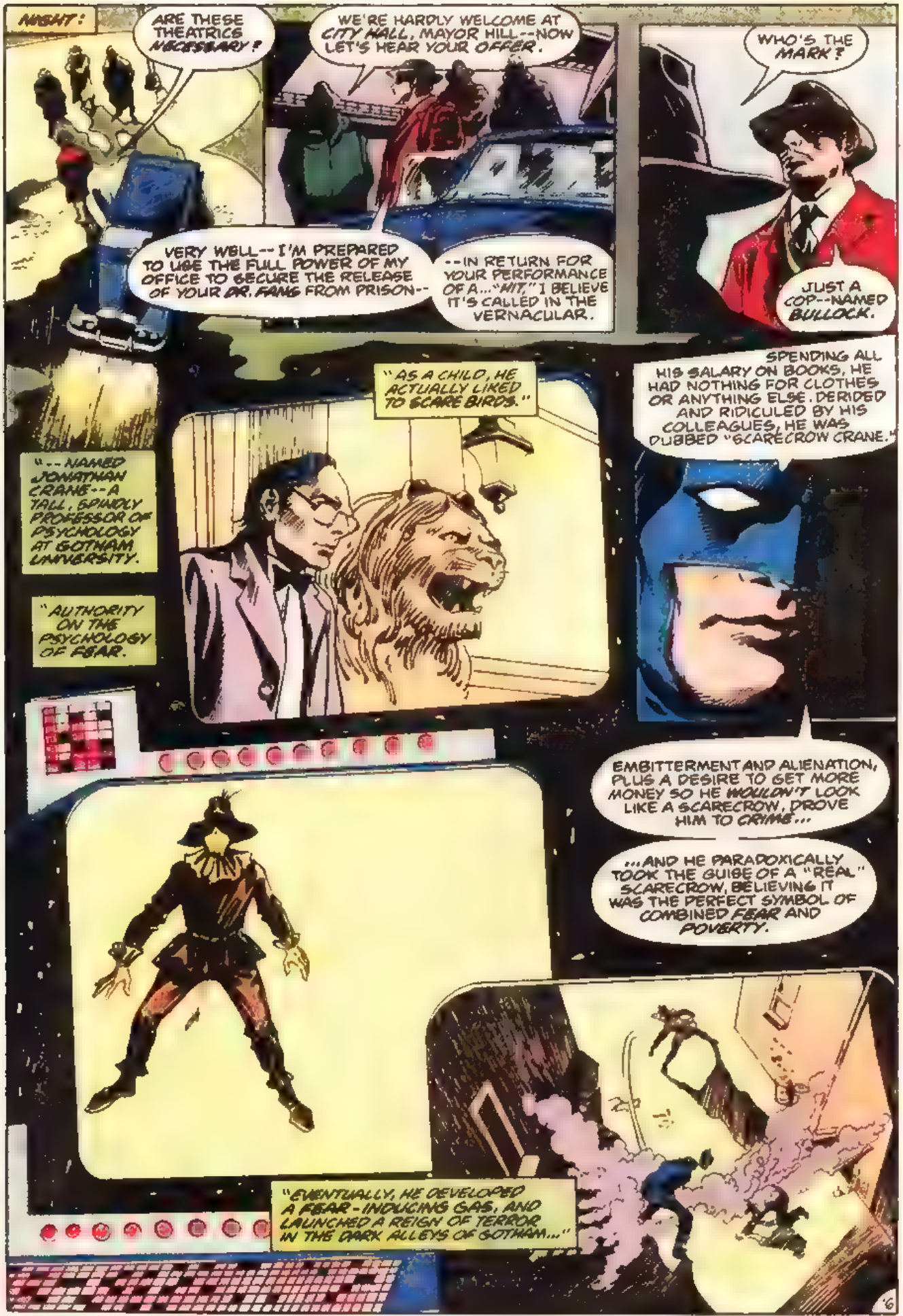
...BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE--OF SHEER FRIGHT.
OPEN HIS CELL!
KREEEEEEE
HA HA HA HA HA
GOTHAM POLICE
KLAW!
THAT CELL STAYS LOCKED, SCARECROW, AND THE JOKER STAYS ALIVE TO RECEIVE HIS JUST PUNISHMENT--
--AS LONG AS A SINGLE BREATH REMAINS IN MY BODY!
THE BATMAN!
ONLY YOU WOULD RISK YOUR LIFE TO PROTECT A MORTAL ENEMY...
...MAKING IT ALL THE EASIER FOR THE REST OF US!
TASTE FEAR, BATMAN--FEEL IT IN YOUR EVERY BONE!
N-NO! I...I'M GOING TO FAIL!
AND THE TODDS--KILLED AT THE ZOO!
I...I COULDN'T STOP THEM... THE C-CROCODILES...!
MY PARENTS--GUNNED DOWN--AND I COULDN'T STOP IT!
HUMMMMM

NOR WILL YOU EVER AGAIN STOP ME, BATMAN!
THE OLD SCARECROW IS GONE --AND I NOW HOLD THE KEY TO YOUR GREATEST FEAR!
N-NO...CAN'T FAIL AGAIN... NOT AGAINST YOU, SCARECROW...!
IMPOSSIBLE! THE MOST INTENSE FREQUENCY-- PIERCING YOUR BRAIN-- AND YOU'RE STILL COMING!
...GOT TO FIGHT THE FEAR...
GOT TO S-STOP YOU!
WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED HE COULD RESIST SUCH AN ASSAULT?
MUST REACH SAFETY--BOOST THE POWER OUTPUT!
BUT AT THE FIRST LANDING--
HOLD IT, PAL!
ROBIN!
KLIK
AHR-R!
D-DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'VE GOT THE SHAKES...
HE HAD AN ESCAPE ROUTE GET UP--
--SLIDING ACROSS THAT ROPE TO THE NEXT BUILDING!
JASON TODD COMES FROM THE CIRCUS...
BATMAN S-SAID HE USES FEAR--BUT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MERE SUPERSTITION-- OR GAS AT THE MOST... WHICH C-COULDN'T PENETRATE OUR NOSE-FILTERS...
...WHERE HE WAS RENOWNED AS A SUPERB AERIALIST...
12


HIS INITIAL FEAR ALREADY FADING, AND WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT--
--HE VAULTS ONTO THE TIGHTROPE, AND ALIVE ITS PRECARIOUS LENGTH...
TWANNNGGG
NEVERTHELESS, HE IS BUT HALFWAY ACROSS WHEN THE SCARECROW REACHES THE OPPOSITE BUILDING.
GLOVED HANDS MANIPULATE THE BASE OF A SKULL--
--AND THE NEW ROBIN TASTES A FEAR NEVER BEFORE KNOWN.
IT SPIKES HIS OWN SKULL-- TO THE VERY CORE OF HIS BRAIN.
V-VERTIGO... DIZZY... C-CAN'T KEEP MY B-BALANCE... GOING TO--
FALLLLL
IT IS CALLED ACROPHOBIA, AND IT IS A FIERCE AND UNCONTROLLABLE FEAR OF HEIGHTS.
FOR A TIGHTROPE WALKER, IT IS CERTAINLY FATAL.
13


SINCE LEAVING THE CIRCUS, HOWEVER, JASON TODD HAS BECOME MORE THAN A MERE ACROBAT.
HE IS NOW PARTNER TO THE BATMAN.
GOT YOU--!
THANK GOD
BUT BY THE TIME THEY REACH SAFETY, THE SCARECROW WILL BE NOWHERE IN SIGHT
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, ROBIN ?
YEAH... STILL A BIT WOOZY... NEVER KNOWN A FEELING LIKE THAT... NEVER FELT SUCH FEAR...
NONE OF US HAVE, ROBIN-- AND IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
WE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE IN THE ADJACENT BUILDING-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE SCARECROW MADE A CLEAN ESCAPE.
THEN MY WORST FEAR CAME TRUE -- I DID FAIL.
COME ON, ROBIN--IT'S TIME TO GO.
THE GOTHAM CHILD WELFARE BUREAU: NEXT DAY...
--REPORT FROM A TEACHER THAT ONE OF HER STUDENTS IS HABITUALLY FALLING ASLEEP IN CLASS.
I'D LIKE YOU TO INVESTIGATE THE CHILD'S PARENTS, AMANDA.
14


HIS NAME IS JASON TODD, AND HIS HEALTH MAY BE IN JEOPARDY.
I'LL GET ON IT RIGHT AWAY.
EVENING:
GLAD YA FINALLY LET ME TAKE YA OUT TO DINNER, COMMISH.
A TEAM LIKE US OUGHTTA GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER...
...AN' THEY SURE GOT GREAT FOOD HERE, HUH?
AH... I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, SGT. BULLOCK.
BUT I'M ALSO GLAD WE GOT TOGETHER... AND BEFORE WE HEAD BACK TO THE STATION THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SAY TO YOU.
I, UH, I'D FINALLY LIKE TO THANK YOU... FOR CALLING IN THE BATMAN TO SAVE MY LIFE WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.
* IN DETECTIVE #533 --LEN.
YOU CAN SHOW YER GRATITUDE, COMMISH-- AWW, THESE'RE ALWAYS HARD TO OPEN WHEN YER FINGERS ARE GREASY--BY TELLIN' ME THE MEANIN OF THAT SWISS CHEESE RIDDLE.
SERIOUSLY, SERGEANT, IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE TO GO AGAINST A MAN LIKE MAYOR HILL--
--AND ANYONE WHO RISKS DANGER LIKE THAT CAN'T BE A BAD COP.
AW, HELL, COMMISH, IT WASN'T--
BLORT
OOPS.
5


NIGHT:
ARE THESE THEATRICS NECESSARY?
WE'RE HARDLY WELCOME AT CITY HALL, MAYOR HILL--NOW LET'S HEAR YOUR OFFER.
VERY WELL--I'M PREPARED TO USE THE FULL POWER OF MY OFFICE TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF YOUR DR. FANG FROM PRISON--
--IN RETURN FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE OF A..."HIT," I BELIEVE IT'S CALLED IN THE VERNACULAR.
WHO'S THE MARK?
JUST A COP--NAMED BULLOCK.
"--NAMED JONATHAN CRANE--A TALL, SPINDLY PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT GOTHAM UNIVERSITY.
"AUTHORITY ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FEAR.
"AS A CHILD, HE ACTUALLY LIKED TO SCARE BIRDS."
SPENDING ALL HIS SALARY ON BOOKS, HE HAD NOTHING FOR CLOTHES OR ANYTHING ELSE. DERIDED AND RIDICULED BY HIS COLLEAGUES, HE WAS DUBBED "SCARECROW CRANE."
EMBITTERMENT AND ALIENATION, PLUS A DESIRE TO GET MORE MONEY SO HE WOULDN'T LOOK LIKE A SCARECROW, DROVE HIM TO CRIME...
...AND HE PARADOXICALLY TOOK THE GUISE OF A "REAL" SCARECROW, BELIEVING IT WAS THE PERFECT SYMBOL OF COMBINED FEAR AND POVERTY.
"EVENTUALLY, HE DEVELOPED A FEAR-INDUCING GAS, AND LAUNCHED A REIGN OF TERROR IN THE DARK ALLEYS OF GOTHAM..."
'6
...NTINUED ON 2ND PAGE...

...HIRING HIMSELF OUT TO BUSINESSMEN AND CROOKS ALIKE--
--INTIMIDATING THEIR COMPETITORS OR RIVALS OUT OF BUSINESS.
NICE GUY--AND NOW HE'S AFTER THE JOKER!
FOR REVENGE, MOST LIKELY--AND HE'S GOT A NEW GIMMICK, MAKING HIM MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER.
AMEN--GIVING AN AERIALIST ACROPHOBIA.
I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE SCARED IN MY LIFE...OUTSIDE OF NIGHTMARES.
BUT I STILL SAY WE SHOULD CHECK OUT HIS OLD HOUSE BY GOTHAM UNIVERSITY.
TOO OBVIOUS, ROBIN...
"HE'D HAVE TO BE INSANE TO RETURN THERE"
THAT SHOULD DO IT--A SIMPLE MATTER OF TRANSMITTER AMPLIFICATION.
AND A BEAUTIFUL--EVEN ELEGANT--PRINCIPLE IT IS.
THE STRESS OF FEAR ON THE AUTONOMOUS NERVOUS SYSTEM EVOKES SYMPATHETIC RESPONSES--PUPIL DILATION, INCREASED BLOOD PRESSURE, PULSE RATE, AND HEART OUTPUT--SWEATING, AND STIMULATION OF THE ARRECTORES PILORUM, LITERALLY RAISING THE HAIR.

ADD TO THAT AN INCREASED SECRETION BY THE PITUITARY GLAND OF ADRENOCORTICOTROPIC HORMONE--
--WHICH ACTS ON THE CORTEX OF THE ADRENAL GLANDS--
--LEADING TO A GREATER OUTPUT OF CORTICAL STEROID HORMONES, CHANGING METABOLIC ACTIVITY AND THE CELLULAR COMPOSITION OF THE BLOOD...
...ALL OF WHICH INDUCES THE CLASSIC "FIGHT OR FLIGHT" RESPONSE.
AND THE KEY TO ALL OF IT IS THE INTERCONNECTION OF PREGANGLIONIC FIBER SYNAPSES, WHICH CAN BE DIRECTLY ATTACKED BY THE ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCIES OF MY FEAR-DEVICE...
...AND ATTACKED WITH SUCH SAVAGERY THAT THE RESPONSE BECOMES A SHEER HELPLESSNESS BEYOND FIGHT OR FLIGHT.
FURTHERMORE, VARYING FREQUENCIES PRODUCE DIFFERING RESULTS--
--FROM THE SUBJECTIVE PROJECTION OF FEAR-IMAGE HALLUCINATIONS SUCH AS SPIDERS AND BATS...
18

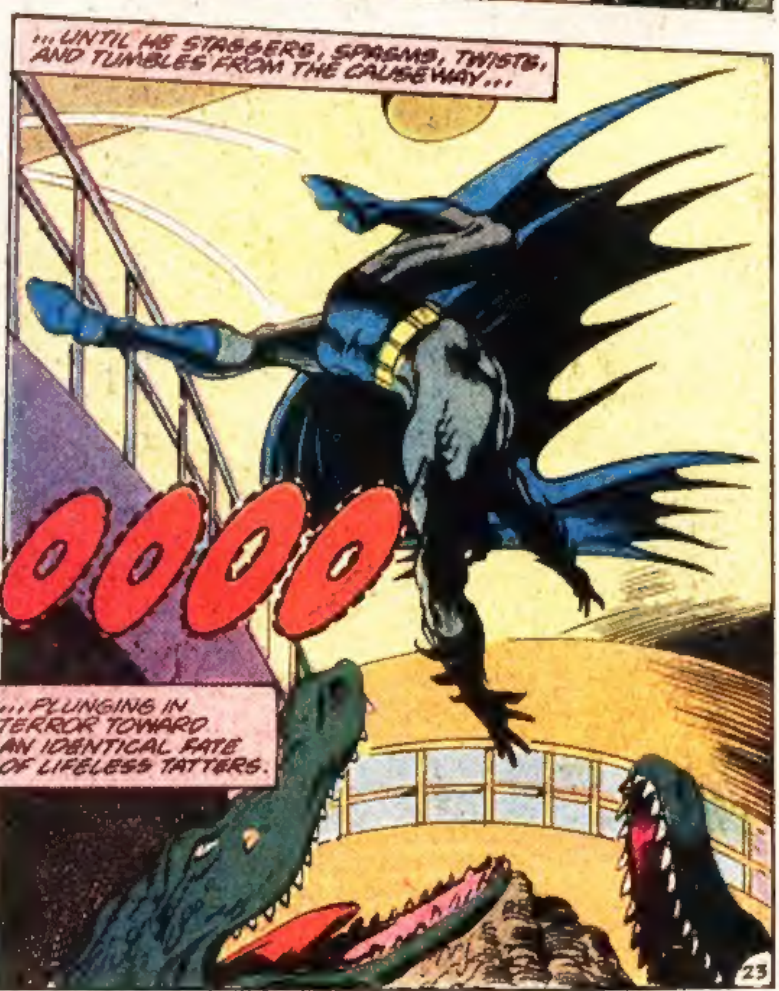
... TO A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL'S GREATEST FEAR OR PHOBIA, SUCH AS THE BATMAN'S FEAR OF FAILING TO STOP EVIL...
BRAIN
... TO A SPECIFIC NON-SUBJECTIVE FEAR KEYED TO PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCE, SUCH AS THE ACROPHOBIA INDUCED IN ROBIN ON THAT HIGHWIRE
ZZZ
SNAP!
--THEN I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO ELIMINATE HIM FIRST...
BUT NOW MY IMMEDIATE PLANS MUST CHANGE.
IF THE BATMAN IS TOO MUCH THE FOOL TO LET ME RID HIM OF HIS GREATEST ENEMIES, ONE BY ONE --
...AFTER REDUCING HIM AND THAT BRAT ROBIN TO GIBBERING MASSES OF TERROR, OF COURSE
POLICE HEADQUARTERS:
I'M AFRAID THE SCARECROW HAS STRUCK AGAIN, BATMAN...
DON'T BE AFRAID, GORDON--THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON THE JOKER?
NO--SECURITY ON THE JOKER HAS BEEN TRIPLED--HE'D BE MAD TO TRY THAT AGAIN...
19

THIS TIME IT'S THE ZOO, OF ALL PLACES--APPARENTLY, THE ANIMALS ARE GOING BERSERK IN PANIC...
THE ZOO.
--OUT OF THE QUESTION, ROBIN. AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS THERE--
--IT'S TOO MUCH TO ASK OF YOU.
BUT IF I'M GONNA BE YOUR PARTNER--
--I GOTTA FACE MY FEARS SOMETIME.
NO.
DON'T LET THAT ROBIN COSTUME MAKE YOU FORGET WHO YOU ARE--JASON TODD, A SON WHO'S LOST HIS PARENTS--AND I'M NOT JUST YOUR SENIOR PARTNER--I'M YOUR GUARDIAN.
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL SHIRK MY RESPONSIBILITY BY PLACING YOU IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION AT THE SCENE OF THE MOST TRAUMATIC EVENT IN YOUR LIFE--
--ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COURTHOUSE.
"NOW GO BACK TO THE BAT-CAVE OR STAY HERE AT HEADQUARTERS WITH GORDON AND BULLOCK."
BUT IN THE GLOOM BETWEEN STREETLAMPS--
VRROOMMMMM
--A CONTRARY DECISION IS OMINOUSLY MADE.
THE ZOO...
...WHERE A DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE STRIDES THROUGH THE SHRIEKING ECHOES OF ANIMALS DEMENTED BY REASONLESS FEAR.

THROUGH IT ALL HE SEES NOTHING BUT THE FACE OF THE JOKER, GLIMPSED IN GLOOM THROUGH THE BARS OF HIS CELL, LEERING AND LAUGHING IN COLD-BURSTS OF INSANITY.
BOTH UNSETTLE HIM, BEASTS AND VISION, AND IF THE TRUTH WERE DEMANDED, HE WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HE IS STILL SHAKEN BY THE LINGERING GRIP OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S FEARS...
RRR
OOAR
...EMOTIONS WHICH HE HAS RARELY KNOWN BEFORE, AND TO WHICH HE HAS NEVER BEFORE SURRENDERED CONTROL.
AFTER AN HOUR OF SEARCHING THROUGH THE PALPABLE EXUDATION OF ANIMAL FEAR, HE FINALLY FACES IT, AS HE KNEW HE'D HAVE TO...
HOUSE OF REPTILES
THE REPTILE HOUSE.... WHERE THE CROCODILES ARE KEPT...
HE ENTERS, UNAWARE OF THE PHOTOELECTRIC BEAM---
---UNTIL IT TRIGGERS A SKULL TO NEW ARRANGEMENTS, GIVING IT SILENT VOICE---
---RELINQUISHING THE BEASTS TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO HIS BRAIN---
---IN AGONIZING WORDS OF FEAR.
HUMMMMM
21

UNABLE TO SAVE MY PARENTS... OR THE TODDS... AND IN THE FUTURE...
...PERHAPS UNABLE TO SAVE JASON AS WELL...
OVER THERE... THE C-CROCODILE PIT...
...UNDER THE CAUSEWAY... CAN'T B-BEAR IT... GOT TO LOOK...
AND WHEN HE DOES LOOK--
OH NO.
NOT AGAIN.
NOT... J-JASON TOO...
IT'S HIM-- STANDING RIGHT OUT IN THE FIELD BEHIND HIS HOUSE!
NO-- JUST A REAL SCARECROW STUFFED WITH STRAW, GUARDING THE WEEDS FROM BIRDS... BIRDS LIKE A--
--ROBIN.
MAYBE I WAS WRONG TO COME HERE ON MY OWN... AND MAYBE THE BATMAN WAS RIGHT.
THE SCARECROW WOULD BE CRAZY TO COME BACK TO HIS OLD HOUSE-- AND I'M CRAZY TO DISOBEY BATMAN.
BUT I CAN'T JUST STAY ON THE SIDELINES FOREVER... NOT EVEN IF DOING SOMETHING COULD CAUSE--
22

CONCLUDED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING


...UNTIL HE STAGGERS, SPASMS, TWISTS, AND TUMBLES FROM THE CAUSEWAY...
...PLUNGING IN TERROR TOWARD AN IDENTICAL FATE OF LIFELESS TATTERS.
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CONCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **DETECTIVE**--ON SALE IN 2 WEEKS!